



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

Declaration for State of Emergency

WHEREAS on August 5, 2015 the United States Environmental Protection Agency negligently caused a release of contaminants from the suspended Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado into the Animas River.

WHEREAS on August 8, 2015, the contaminants entered into the San Juan River, south of Farmington and entered into the water system of the Navajo Nation;

WHEREAS the toxic spill will cause a long-lasting and unknown impact to the Navajo Nation's water system and wells near the San Juan River to Lake Powell and impacting several surrounding Chapters on the Navajo Nation; and

WHEREAS the contaminants release by the mine are toxic, contaminating our water and is causing unknown health risks to our people, and water used by the Navajo people for irrigation, livestock and free roaming animals, disturbing the Navajo way of life.

NOW THEREFORE, I RUSSELL BEGAYE President of the Navajo Nation issue this Executive Order, effective immediately, to respond to the spill caused by the U.S.E.P.A. at the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Navajo Nation Divisions specifically the Navajo Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Natural Resources, Division of Public Safety, Emergency Management Department, Office of Attorney General and Department of Health shall coordinate efforts and resources to address the impact to the Navajo Nation by the Gold King Mine spill.
2. The Navajo Nation President may require and direct other Navajo Nation Divisions to assist in these efforts, as needed

IN WITNESS THEREOF, this date August 8, 2015:

Russell Begaye, President
Jonathan Nez, Vice-President

ATTEST:

Ethel Branch, Attorney General